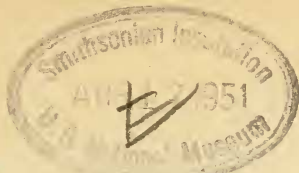


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**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON**

**GENERAL NOTES**

**CARPENTER FROG, *RANA VIRGATIPES*, ON THE COASTAL  
PLAIN OF MARYLAND**

The carpenter frog, a "coastal plain endemic," as Conant (Maryland. A Journal of Natural History, 17: 72-73, 1947) refers to it, has been reported from Maryland only three times, so far as this writer has been able to ascertain.

Conant (*loc. cit.*) reported the first Maryland specimen of this species from near the edge of Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, in southern Dorchester County, April 10, 1947. A second record was made by William Pruitt and the writer while camping in the Pocomoke Swamp, approximately 100 yards below the Delaware state line, on the night of June 12, 1948. The habitat at this station in the Pocomoke was a sphagnum bog on the upland side of the swamp. Throughout the night it was the only creature heard.

A single carpenter frog was heard by Catesby Jones and the writer in the vicinity of Blackwater Refuge, on November 20, 1948. This late date constitutes the third record for the State.

It may be of interest to note that Robert Stewart and the writer procured six of these frogs in a burned-over section of the Pocomoke Swamp half a mile north of the Maryland state line in Delaware, on the night of April 20, 1948. This location lies between the towns of Selbyville and Gumboro, Delaware.

A southern species, this is but one of a number of Austro-riparian animals and plants that occur in the Pocomoke Swamp. Some other examples are Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), Red Bay (*Persia borbonia*), Horse Sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*), Cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*), and Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*).

BROOKE MEANLEY

***EUMECES LATICEPS* (SCHNEIDER) IN THE ALLEGHANIAN  
ZONE OF MARYLAND**

Published records for the occurrence of *Eumeces laticeps* in Maryland list this species principally from the Coastal Plain province.

It is known to occur in St. Mary's County in southern

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Maryland, and at various points east of the Chesapeake Bay, on the "Eastern Shore," where the writer, accompanied by John Hamlet, has seen as many as ten (10) individuals of the species in a day, near Centerville. Its habitat at this locality was composed mainly of an oak-beech overstory, with a scattering of laurel and blueberry in the shrub stratum. Scattered throughout the woods were a number of dead chestnut stumps and windfalls in which the reptile lived.

Recently, J. A. Fowler (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 59: 165, 1946) reported the occurrence of *Eumeces laticeps* on the Piedmont Plateau, 2½ miles above Seneca, in Montgomery County.

The known range of the species can now be extended westward, into the Blue Ridge, where it is probably fairly common.

On May 23, 1948, the writer, accompanied by Maurice and Jack Zardus and Paul Anderson, captured a specimen at the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, an outlier of the Catoctin Mountains, in Frederick County.

Approximately a year later, May 15, 1949, the same party observed two of these large skinks on Elk Ridge at Weverton (near Harper's Ferry, W. Va.), Washington County, Maryland.

So far as the writer is able to learn, these are the first records for *Eumeces laticeps* from the Alleghanian Zone of Maryland.

BROOKE MEANLEY

#### **NATRIX ERYTHROGASTER IN THE AUSTRORIPARIAN ZONE OF MARYLAND**

McCauley, in his "Reptiles of Maryland and the District of Columbia," gives only two locality records of *Natrix erythrogaster* from Maryland. Both records are from the upper Pocomoke Swamp, a region where this southern snake might be expected to occur, since the Pocomoke is a tongue of Austroriparian element that extends northward through the central-eastern part of the "Del-Mar-Va" Peninsula. The capture by the writer of a large specimen two miles north of Powellville, Maryland, along the Pocomoke River, on April 2, 1950, constitutes a third record for Maryland. The habitat here was a partly drained cypress-gum stand, in which several of the cypress trees measured three feet in diameter.

BROOKE MEANLEY